

SENATOR VICKERS: I support Senator Chambers' motion.

PRESIDENT: Now the Chair has to recognize on the Chambers amendment to the Cullan amendment these senators: Senators Cullan, DeCamp, and Rod Johnson, in that order. Senator Cullan. Order in the Chamber, please.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, it is unfortunate that Senator Higgins isn't here because I thought she was the only member of the body that really didn't like the press. Let me say for the record, that I don't work for any newspaper in the State of Nebraska. The law firms with which I am associated don't represent any of those guys, in fact, we don't even like most of them. I really don't care what the editorials are in a lot of the papers, particularly the Lincoln papers because nobody in my district gets any of them that I know of, except two librarians and they don't read them either. So now that we set the record straight on that issue, I would like to get back to what the amendment does. The amendment is very simple. The amendment is a compromise between what the bill says and what other people like to do. The bill is a compromise between the interests of the media and their legitimate right to monitor the expenses of a body like the Legislature and to monitor our activity, and the rights of us in the Legislature and our constituents to have confidential communications. The amendment specifically prohibits the Legislature from disclosing telephone numbers and that is the important concept, and as long as that objective is achieved, I don't believe that any one of us in the Legislature have anything to fear from disclosure. Granted there are small towns in Nebraska but I don't know of any exchange, telephone exchange which has only one number and therefore the confidentiality of the communications that we make are indeed protected with the amendment that I have suggested to you. I urge you to adopt the amendment and I can tell you personally that if this amendment is not adopted, it would be most unwise of us to advance LB 565 and I would be then forced to join those who oppose the bill in its entirety. But I think the middleground would allow us to advance the bill today and to reach a reasonable solution on this issue.

PRESIDENT: The issue before the House is the Chambers amendment to the Cullan amendment. The Chair recognizes Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I think I am the only member of the Government Committee who hasn't spoken on this issue, so I would like to throw my two cents in if I may so. Well, Senator Higgins